

DATE

Jackie Rouse
2805 Fourth Street
Jonesville, Louisiana 71343

Re: **Louisiana Board of Ethics**
Docket No. 2021-338

Dear Ms. Rouse,

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its meeting on July 9, 2021, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether the Code of Governmental Ethics ("Code") would prohibit you from seeking election as the Catahoula Parish Coroner.

FACTS PROVIDED

You are currently employed as a Civil Deputy for the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office. You also serve as a Chief Deputy for the Catahoula Parish Coroner's Office. Your duties with the Coroner's office are on an as-needed basis. The current Coroner is not seeking re-election. You ask whether the Code would prohibit you from becoming a candidate for the position of Catahoula Parish Coroner while also being employed as a Civil Deputy by the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office.

LAW

La. R.S. 42:1111A(1)(a) prohibits a public employee from receiving anything of economic value, other than compensation and benefits from the governmental entity to which he is duly entitled, for the performance of the duties and responsibilities of his office or position.

CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that generally, the Code will not prohibit you from seeking the elected office of Catahoula Parish Coroner while also being employed by the Catahoula Parish Sheriff's Office. The Board cautioned that campaign activity must occur outside of your normal working hours, or that you take annual leave, to prevent a violation of Section 1111A(1)(a).

Opinions on the dual-office holding and dual-employment laws are within the jurisdiction of the Attorney General. The Office of the Attorney General may be contacted at (225)326-6000.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Governmental Ethics. Please note that the Board issues no opinion as to past conduct and that the Board's expressed opinion is limited to an examination of the Code of Governmental Ethics, the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act, the Lobbyist Disclosure Acts, and the conflict of interest provisions in the gaming laws.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

David M. Bordelon
For the Board

DISCLAIMER
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
No party may rely on the facts or conclusions. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only, and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.